

## International Affairs

| International Affairs               |                        | 2003 Actual         | 2004 Estimate       | Uncontrollables & Related Changes (+/-) | Program Changes (+/-) | 2005 Budget Request | Change from 2004 (+/-) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| International Wildlife Trade        | \$(000)<br>FTE         | 4,533<br>51         | 4,530<br>49         | +35                                     | +500<br>+2            | 5,065<br>51         | +535<br>+2             |
| International Conservation          | \$(000)<br>FTE         | 3,780<br>14         | 3,942<br>16         | +12                                     | -395<br>0             | 3,559<br>16         | -383<br>0              |
| CAM                                 |                        | [291]               | [TBD]*              |   |                       | [TBD]*              |                        |
| <b>Total, International Affairs</b> | <b>\$(000)<br/>FTE</b> | <b>8,313<br/>65</b> | <b>8,472<br/>65</b> | <b>+47</b>                              | <b>+105<br/>+2</b>    | <b>8,624<br/>67</b> | <b>+152<br/>+2</b>     |

\*The Service is reviewing the Cost Allocation Methodology and will provide a FY 2005 budget proposal by April 15, 2004.

### Program Overview

The Service, through the International Affairs Program, works with private citizens, local communities, state and federal agencies, foreign governments, and U.S. and international non-governmental organizations (NGO's) to promote a coordinated domestic and international strategy to protect, restore, and enhance the world's diverse wildlife and their habitats, with a focus on species of international concern. The program supports the Department's Strategic Plan Mission of Resource Protection through improving the health of watershed, landscapes, and marine resources and sustaining biological communities, and the Serving Communities Mission by fulfilling Indian trust responsibilities.

The Service is in the process of developing a new operational performance plan that directly aligns all program activities and objectives with the Secretary's four strategic plan mission components – Resource Protection, Resource Use, Recreation, and Serving Communities. The Service's operational plan will contain new long-term and annual performance goals and measures to guide the delivery of FWS program implementation, management reform, and budget formulation. The alignment and integration of program performance with budget formulation will provide the context for transparent accountability and the foundation for continual improvement. The Service anticipates completion of a new operational plan by Fall 2004.

#### *Why an International Program?*

- Implement activities mandated by various treaties and domestic laws entrusted to the Secretary
- International species are important to Americans for their economic, biological, and intrinsic value
- International wildlife and their habitats go beyond political boundaries
- Implementation of wildlife laws and treaties results in global conservation of species, and contributes to environmental health and economic development for range countries

The Service implements U.S. wildlife laws, as well as international treaties and agreements including:

- The *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*, the only global treaty that ensures international trade is based on sustainable-use management of wild and captive populations;
- The *Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (Western Hemisphere Convention)*, a broad accord to conserve wildlife and their natural habitats; and,
- The *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)*, the only global habitat-oriented convention for wetlands conservation.

#### Use of Cost and Performance Information

- The International Affairs Program will use cost and performance information to work across agencies and in common goals in a globally cost effective manner.
- Shift resources from work units that have achieved long-term goals, and have reduced workloads and opportunities as a result.
- Allocate additional budgetary resources to improve poor performance if the program's budget constraints are the root cause of poor performance.
- Document unit costs to support cost recovery.

The International Affairs Program is separated into two functions:

**International Wildlife Trade** implements management and scientific requirements of domestic laws and international treaties enacted or ratified by the Congress for the conservation of species subject to trade. It helps to conserve species at-risk by using best science and management practices to make decisions on the status of species and policy development to implement laws and treaties effectively, administer an international permitting program, collaborate with states, tribes, and others, and provide training and technical assistance to other countries. This function supports DOI's Resource Protection Goal by ensuring sustainable use of protected wildlife in trade and thereby meeting species-specific international obligations.

**International Conservation** provides conservation education and technical training to local communities in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, the Near East, and Asia, pursuant to the Western Hemisphere Convention and bilateral international agreements in concert with the State Department. In addition, it manages the grants programs established under the Multinational Species Conservation Funds for rhinoceroses and tigers, African elephants, Asian elephants, and great apes. International Conservation also works closely with the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation to implement the Neotropical Migratory Bird Program. This function also supports DOI's Resource Protection Goal as stated above, as well as by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

## International Wildlife Trade

### Program Overview

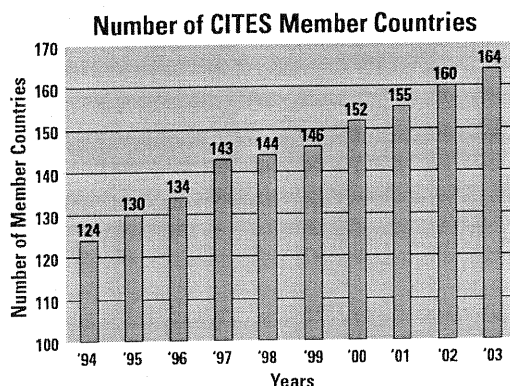
As the world's largest importer and exporter of wildlife (animals and plants) and their products, the United States dominates an estimated \$5 billion annual world wildlife trade industry. The Service is mandated by a number of wildlife laws and treaties, including the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*, the *Endangered Species Act*, *Marine Mammal Protection Act*, *Lacey Act*, *African Elephant Conservation Act*, *Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act*, and *Wild Bird Conservation Act*, to conserve species of international concern and thereby ensure the sustainable use of these wildlife resources. The mandate to monitor and regulate trade is carried out through various permitting programs. The Service provides these services through its International Wildlife Trade Program, which supports DOI's Resource Protection Goal. In response to ever-increasing pressures of wildlife trade and habitat loss on species worldwide, International Affairs uses best science and management practices to make critical decisions on the status of species, policy development, and permit issuance. Through cooperative efforts, such as participating in training workshops, International Affairs strives to empower other countries to develop tools to more effectively manage wildlife resources. International Affairs objectively uses the best available biological information to determine whether trade in listed species is based on sustainable-use management and whether changes in species listing status are warranted under *CITES* and/or the *Endangered Species Act* (for foreign species). This is consistent with DOI's intermediate Resource Protection goal of improving information and assessments used for decision-making. International Affairs also administers the *Wild Bird Conservation Act*, which ensures imports of wild-caught exotic birds into the United States do not jeopardize their survival in the wild.

### CITES

*CITES* is one of the most effective international conventions for the conservation of plants and animals. It provides a framework for cooperation and collaboration among 164 nations to conserve species affected by international trade. Import and export of *CITES*-listed species may be allowed if trade is not detrimental to their survival and is conducted with legally acquired specimens. As the U.S. *CITES* Management Authority and Scientific Authority, the Service contributes to the development and implementation of international policy on permitting, scientific and other wildlife trade issues, works closely with the *CITES* Secretariat, and communicates regularly with

U.S. *CITES* Management and Scientific Authorities conserve species on an international scale through:

- Implementation of the permits program
- Providing scientific advice on listed species, permits, etc.
- Representing the United States at *CITES* Meetings
- Working with the *CITES* Secretariat and other countries
- Monitoring trade and producing an annual report on U.S. trade
- Coordinating with state and federal agencies, NGOs and industry

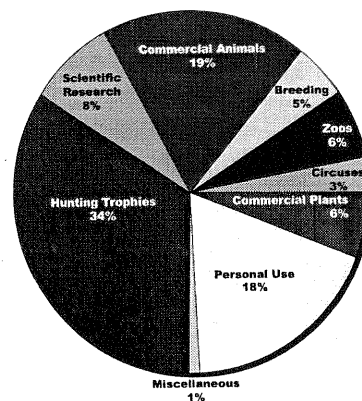


foreign *CITES* Authorities. These activities, which have

increased significantly as *CITES* Party countries have increased from 124 to 164 over the past decade, support DOI's intermediate outcome goal of ensuring the United States meets species-specific international obligations related to managing species populations to self-sustaining levels. Sturgeon, bigleaf mahogany, giant pandas, and argali sheep represent some of the approximately 35,000 species protected by *CITES*.

The biennial meetings of *CITES* provide a key forum to promote the conservation of priority species of international concern. Commensurate with U.S. leadership in international wildlife conservation, International Affairs carries a significant workload related to these meetings. In FY 2005, the Service will participate in the 13th Meeting of the *CITES* Conference of the Parties, scheduled to be held in Thailand in October 2004 and will have the responsibility for carrying out the species listing and implementation goals adopted at that meeting. International Affairs will disseminate results to U.S. constituents, including the Departments of State, Commerce, Agriculture, Treasury, and Justice, the Agency for International Development, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, as well as the states and non-governmental organizations. The International Affairs program will take an active lead in domestic and international follow-up on species listing actions and management decisions to ensure *CITES* effectiveness. International Affairs represents the United States on the *CITES* Standing, Animals, and Plants Committees, and other ad hoc groups that meet in the interim to address scientific and implementation issues.

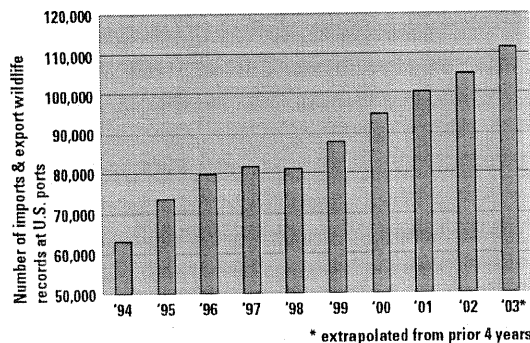
Conservation Partners/PermitCustomers



The International Affairs program receives permit applications from customers seeking to engage in a wide variety of wildlife trade activities. In addition to processing permits, International Affairs maintains trade records for U.S. imports and exports in order to monitor the status of trade over time. These records show a steady, significant increase in wildlife trade over the past decade. The records are also used to develop a *CITES* annual report, as required by the Convention. Data from the United States and other *CITES* countries are used to determine trends in trade to ensure that significant trade in animals and plants is sustainable.

### Conservation Partnerships

The Service collaborates with states and tribes to support their implementation of management programs for native species listed under *CITES* that are commercially traded in high numbers, including American ginseng, American alligator, bobcat, Alaska lynx, and river otter in order to simplify the export of these species. International Affairs oversees and monitors approved export programs for 45 states and seven tribes. This results in expedited issuance of *CITES* permits for export of roots, furs, and skins of these species, supporting improved conservation efforts for species of international concern.

U.S. *CITES* Wildlife Trade Records (1994-2003)

This supports the Department's Cultural and Natural Heritage intermediate outcome goal to increase partnerships, volunteer opportunities, and stakeholder satisfaction.

### The *CITES* Export Program for Furbearers, Alligators and Ginseng

International Affairs issues nearly 650,000 export tags to 45 states and seven tribes. Marking of legally acquired skins and certification of ginseng harvest data, facilitate export of *CITES* Appendix II species, enhance law enforcement efforts and ensure sustainable use of native commercial species managed by the States.

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) has been exported from North America for almost three centuries and ranks among the most lucrative of medicinal plant species worldwide. As a result of concerns over the impact on wild populations, the species was listed under *CITES* in 1975. In 2002 the United States exported over 31,000 kilograms of wild-collected American ginseng root and over 240,000 kilos of cultivated root. Today, one wild root may be valued at \$2,000.

International Affairs also works cooperatively with private and public sectors to promote conservation of animal and plant species in trade. Partnerships are essential to managing resources, especially as commercial use of wildlife challenges traditional approaches to wildlife conservation. One of these partnerships involves development of an outreach program to the traditional medicine community and consumers on alternatives to medicines made from rhinos and tigers.

### Training and Technical Assistance

The Service provides training and technical assistance to encourage effective implementation and enforcement of *CITES* in collaboration with other *CITES* parties, supporting DOI's priority of increasing the number of species which benefit from improved conservation efforts while forging partnerships through shared information. Former Soviet states, Asian countries, and South and Central American neighbors with serious wildlife trade problems turn to the Service for *CITES* administrative and law enforcement training and scientific advice. The International Affairs program also works closely with permit holders generate funding for conservation of high-visibility species in the wild, such as pandas in China and argali sheep in Asia. Funds to assist in polar bear research in Alaska and Russia are also generated through the issuance of permits under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act*.

### Invasives

Under the authority of the *Lacey Act*, which prohibits the import of injurious wildlife, the Service has responsibility to protect native species and their habitats from exotic species that may be harmful to them. In support of DOI Resource Protection Goal, Strategy 1, which aims to create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish, International Affairs focuses on prevention of new species invasions by evaluating selected taxa traded as live specimens to determine associated risks and possible threats to native species and ecosystems. In addition, the International Affairs program participates in the Service's cross-program invasive species working group, which provides staff support for DOI's Invasive Species Council.

### 2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

In FY 2003, the major accomplishments in the International Wildlife Trade Program include:

- Developed a blueprint for conducting an intensive evaluation of the *CITES* listing criteria and implemented species listing and implementation decisions adopted at *CITES* COP12 (November 2002), conducting outreach on the results to U.S. constituents, especially the States and affected industries. Lead domestic and international follow-up actions, especially

on new listings in bigleaf mahogany and marine species. Continued to serve as Chair for the *CITES* Standing Committee.

- Processed over 5000 applications for permits for international trade in wildlife, issuing most within a 60-day time frame. Initiated the use of "Certificates of Ownership" designed to facilitate international travel for U.S. citizens and their pets, while enhancing wildlife conservation by better tracking of live *CITES* specimens. Implemented COP 12 decisions to expedite the trade in personal effects and traveling exhibitions.
- Launched the Service permits web portal ([permits.fws.gov](http://permits.fws.gov)) and developed websites for queen conch and *CITES* timber (including mahogany) to provide the public and industry timely access to information and expedite permit processing.
- Continued the *CITES* export program, a 24-year partnership with the states and tribes, issuing nearly 650,000 wildlife export tags; granted species approval to three states (River otter, Idaho and Texas; Bobcat, Pennsylvania); added two tribes to the *CITES* export program (the Little River Band and Grand Traverse Band of the Ottawa Chippewa Indians); and sponsored a Federal-State consultation on American ginseng harvest and export under *CITES*.
- Conducted a *CITES* capacity building workshop in Saint Lucia for over 50 government officials from 16 Caribbean states and territories. The training focused on building *CITES* authorities in these countries and development of national legislation, a critical component of *CITES* implementation.
- Consulted with range countries on species of special concern, including participating in a *CITES* Mahogany Working Group designed to facilitate the new listing of this highly traded commercial timber species.
- Initiated the development of species listing proposals for *CITES* COP13, including the evaluation of 32 taxa (species or species groups) proposed by the public for listing actions. This included a review of the bobcat, bald eagle and African lovebirds for downlisting or delisting.
- Concluded assessments for 10 species of snakes, 24 amphibians, and exotic earthworms (potentially 45 or more species) to determine whether they should be considered for listing as injurious wildlife. Continued the assessment of 80 potentially invasive fish species, which also involves the development of a computer model for assessing the invasive characteristics of exotic species.
- Made significant progress in addressing a backlog of listing petitions and previously unconcluded listing actions for foreign species under the Endangered Species Act, including three species of African antelopes, the dugong population of Palau, seven butterfly species, and the Tibetan antelope. Continued work on recently initiated listing actions for the beluga sturgeon and two Australian parakeets.

#### 2004 Planned Program Performance

- Prepare and submit to *CITES* COP13 (October 2004) 5-8 species listing proposals emphasizing native U.S. species and foreign species for which the United States is a

significant importer or otherwise has a conservation role. Develop and submit 6-8 proposed *CITES* resolutions aimed at addressing specific difficulties encountered by the United States.

- Process approximately 5,500 applications for permits for international trade in wildlife. The program will continue to improve customer service through outreach efforts and development of a website for electronic submission of permit applications and fees.
- Continue longstanding partnerships and outreach to the states, tribes and other constituents, particularly with respect to the *CITES* Appendix II export program. Facilitate review with states, trappers and other partners of the U.S. *CITES* export tag program for furbearers to identify potential streamlining measures commensurate with conservation effectiveness. The program will continue to work closely with the public in the revision of MMPA regulations regarding the import of sport-hunted polar bear trophies.
- Organize and participate in *CITES* training workshops with a primary focus on southeast Asia where *CITES*-listed species are traded in high volumes. In particular conduct capability assessments and training workshops for the *CITES* Management Authority in Cambodia. Provide technical assistance on wildlife trade to developing countries and range states, and focus on species of concern, including argali, polar bear, mahogany and African and Asian elephants.

### Justification of 2005 Program Changes

| Subactivity                  |                | 2005 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| International Wildlife Trade | \$(000)<br>FTE | 5,065<br>51         | +500<br>+2            |

The FY 2005 budget request for International Wildlife Trade is \$5,065,000, a net program increase of \$500,000 and 2 FTE from the 2004 enacted level.

### International Wildlife Trade (+\$500,000)

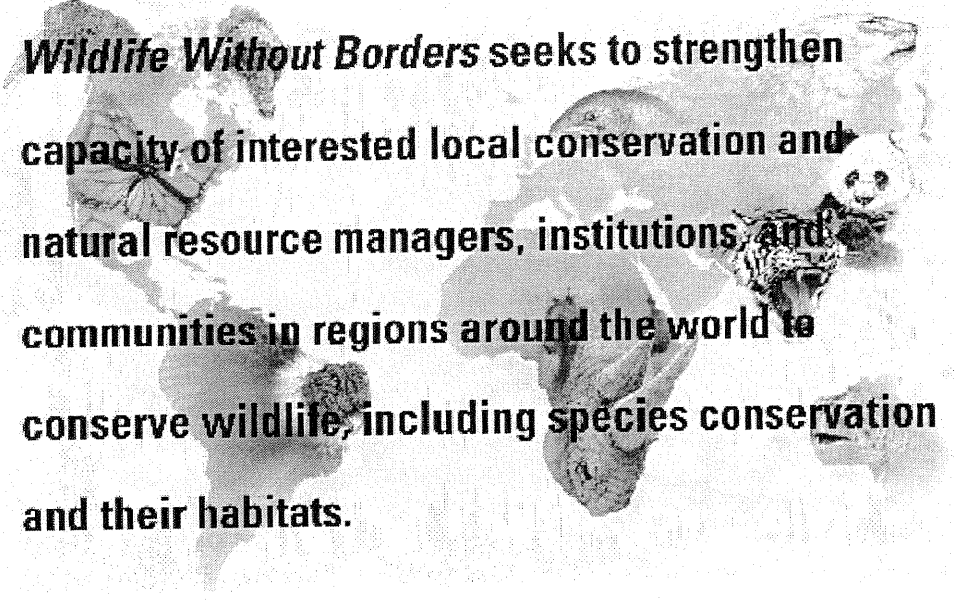
The requested increase will be used to modernize and expand the capability of the Service Permits Issuance and Tracking System. SPITS was developed in 1996 as a state-of-the-art computer system, but funds were lacking to fully implement tracking and reporting modules. With advances in technology, the system has become increasingly antiquated. The modernization and expansion of our technological capabilities will enable permit programs nationwide to generate robust reports to support species use and management of permit resources. Further, the improvement of SPITS will provide better customer service and address complaints; improve timeliness of permit issuance, especially for perishable products in trade, such as caviar; and increase security and data quality. The permit activities of International Wildlife Trade support the Secretary's priorities by providing quality information to the public and ensuring permits are used to conserve priority species. For example, permits to allow the import of giant pandas have generated \$11 million for panda conservation projects in China, and supported activities in panda reserves which have increased by 29 percent since 1995. The enhanced technology will also contribute to the Service's support of the President's Management Agenda for electronic government and help to identify and redirect work to meet emerging priorities for the International Wildlife Trade program.

This increase is directly related to the Outcome Goal Sustaining Biological Communities and is consistent with the intermediate goal of improving information and assessments used for decision-

making under the DOI Strategic Plan for Resource Protection Mission Goal. By 2005, 62 species and 6 taxa of concern will benefit from International Wildlife Trade permitting and other actions taken to reduce threats from international trade. The Service will be able to efficiently generate species-critical permit information to track and validate performance and increase program effectiveness.



## International Conservation



***Wildlife Without Borders* seeks to strengthen capacity of interested local conservation and natural resource managers, institutions, and communities in regions around the world to conserve wildlife, including species conservation and their habitats.**

### Program Overview

Conservation of wildlife is a global priority. The survival of wildlife species largely depends on the health of habitats extending beyond political boundaries, and the need for international collaboration has never been greater. The Service is mandated through a number of statutes and international treaties to provide support for the conservation of species of international concern. For more than 20 years the Service's International Conservation program, through a series of *Wildlife Without Borders* initiatives, has developed projects for training wildlife managers and conserving species of international concern. These initiatives support DOI's Resource Protection Mission, aimed at sustaining biological communities, by fulfilling DOI's international obligations to manage populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species and create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish. These goals are achieved through projects that provide for habitat management training, education, information and technology exchange, and networks and partnerships. The International Conservation Program administers the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat* (Ramsar Convention) and *Multinational Species Conservation Acts* (rhinoceros, tigers, African and Asian elephants, and Great apes).

| International Conservation   | FY 2003<br>Actual | FY 2004<br>Estimate | FY 2005<br>Estimate |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Number of species that benefit from improved conservation efforts for which FWS has some level of participation or activity.         | 29                | 30                  | 31                  |
| Additional number of people working in wildlife habitat conservation fields after obtaining advanced degrees in related disciplines. | N/A               | 15                  | 30                  |
| Additional number of people trained in wildlife habitat management and sustainment.  | N/A               | 200                 | 400                 |

### ***Wildlife Without Borders- Latin America & The Caribbean***

This initiative was established in 1983 to implement the *Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere* (Western Hemisphere Convention). It assists in the development of locally adapted wildlife management and conservation programs through grants that provide academic and technical training, conservation education, information exchange and technology transfer, networks and partnerships, and informed citizen participation in natural resource issues. Over the last five years the \$1 million in annual appropriations have leveraged over \$14.5 million in matching and in-kind support from a wide range of partner organizations.

### ***Wildlife Without Borders- Mexico***

In 1994 the Service and the Mexican Secretariat for the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries created this initiative to assist in capacity building for natural resource management in Mexico, ecosystem management via sustainable resource use, and information exchange to promote better management and understanding of conservation issues. *Wildlife Without Borders- Mexico* grants promote sustainable conservation practices through academic and technical training, conservation education, information exchange and technology transfer, networks and partnerships, and informed citizen participation in natural resource issues. Since 1995 this program has leveraged over \$12.2 million in matching and in-kind support, tripling the Service's investment.

### ***Wildlife Without Borders- Russia & East Asia***

The Service cooperates with Russia to conserve shared species and populations of wildlife, such as walrus, polar bears, sturgeon and eider ducks under the U.S.- Russia Environmental Agreement and U.S.- Russia Migratory Bird Convention, both signed in 1972. A grants program instituted in 1995 has provided a total of more than \$600,000 to enhance law enforcement, education activities and infrastructure at federal nature reserves. With its unique wildlife and plant species and landscapes, some of which are found nowhere else, China's biodiversity has long been of interest to the American people. The Protocol on Cooperation and Exchanges in the Field of Conservation of Nature was signed in 1986 by the U.S. Department of the Interior and China's Ministry of Forestry. Since then nearly one hundred short term exchanges of biologists have taken place, and the Service has encouraged China to better safeguard its wildlife resources through conservation education, improved management of wildlife trade and enforcement, and protection of rivers and wetland habitat. The Service's relations with Japan center around a 1972 bilateral Migratory Bird Convention. The two countries meet periodically to review efforts to conserve the 189 species of birds common to both countries, including the endangered short-tailed albatross.

### ***Wildlife Without Borders- Near East, South Asia and Africa***

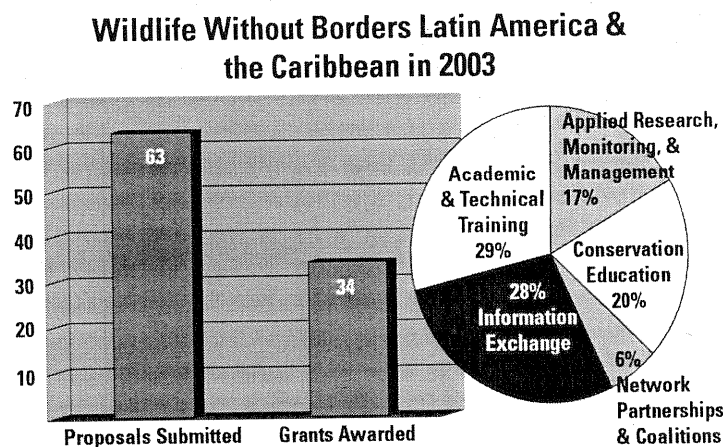
Since its inception in the late 1970s, this initiative has generated more than 50 times the Service investment through counterpart funding for more than 300 wildlife conservation projects supported by excess foreign currencies available through the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 and the U.S.- India Fund. Support under this initiative is also generated for the *Multinational Species Conservation Acts* that target conservation of African and Asian elephants, rhinoceros, tigers and Great apes and their habitats.

## **2003 Program Performance Accomplishments**

In FY 2003, the major accomplishments in the International Conservation Program include:

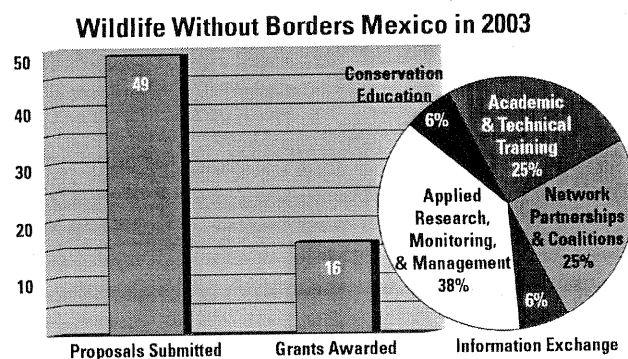
- **Wildlife Without Borders – Latin America & The Caribbean (\$680,700)**

During FY 2003, the Service received 63 proposals and awarded 34 grants in a variety of program areas, leveraging \$4.05 million in matching funds. Projects under the Latin American and Caribbean included activities to manage and conserve hawksbill and Kemp's ridley sea turtles, West Indian whistling duck, white-crowned pigeon, Caribbean parrot, white-winged nightjar, rufous-fronted parakeet, red-fronted macaw, neotropical migratory songbirds, migratory bats and migratory shorebirds.



- **Wildlife Without Borders- Mexico (\$464,323)**

During FY 2003, the Service received 49 proposals and awarded 16 grants in a variety of program areas, leveraging \$1.38 million in matching funds. Projects under the Mexico initiative included activities to manage and conserve monarch butterfly, Steineger lizard, desert bighorn sheep, Heermann's gull, elegant tern, California brown pelican, neotropical migratory birds, migratory shorebirds and migratory bats.



- **Wildlife Without Borders- Russia & East Asia**

During FY 2003, the Russia Wildlife Conservation Grants Program provided funding for 22 grants, valued at a total of \$135,539, for the enhancement of law enforcement and conservation training at Russian federal nature reserves and national parks. Other efforts focused on Amur tiger conservation in conjunction with the efforts described in the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act.

- **Wildlife Without Borders- Near East, South Asia and Africa**

During FY 2003, this initiative continued to support ten on-going projects in India that focus on the survival of such species as the Siberian crane, Adjutant stork, white-backed vulture, sea turtles, Indian wolf, Asian lion and their habitats. Additionally, cooperative efforts in Pakistan resulted in activities to train zoo managers, develop community outreach programs on wildlife and to conserve Asian brown bears, Balochistan black bear, bustards, markhors, cranes, and numerous other species and their habitats. Initial efforts were directed toward assisting Afghanistan to develop capacity addressing biodiversity issues and to assist Iraq with efforts to restore their marsh system. Additional FY 2003 accomplishments under this initiative are addressed in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund budget justification.

Note: The International Conservation Program contributes to the goal of benefiting priority species of international concern through improved conservation efforts. FY 2003 table details can be found in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund budget justification section.

## 2004 Planned Program Performance

In FY 2004, significant accomplishments in the International Conservation Program will involve:

- Assist various public and private partners with the development and implementation of effective management plans for wetlands and other habitats important to migratory and resident waterfowl;
- Collaborate to conserve neotropical migratory bird species through an array of on-the-ground conservation activities in Latin America for species such as osprey, dickcissel, purple martin, and red knot;
- Promote implementation of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative throughout the ranges of neotropical migratory bird species shared with the U.S.;
- Enhance campesino communities' support for maintaining the world's only winter habitat reserve of the Monarch butterfly, integrating local people into conservation efforts and reconciling their land use practices with butterfly survival;

*The Monarch butterfly's winter destinations in Mexican forest reserves continue to be plagued by logging, agriculture, uncontrolled tourism, erosion, and pollution. Any activity to resolve the struggle requires the inclusion of the local community in order to succeed.*

- Facilitate international cooperation relating to the U.S./Canada/Mexico Trilateral Committee, international wetland activities, the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and other bi-national and multi-lateral initiatives;
- Fulfill statutory responsibilities and protect migratory species through joint surveys and other activities with Russian collaborators to conserve marine mammals, waterfowl, seabirds and shorebirds;

- Continue the Wildlife Reserve Conservation Grants Program to enhance law enforcement, refuge manager training and facilities maintenance activities, concentrating on those protected areas not previously awarded funding.

Note: The International Conservation Program contributes to the goal of benefiting priority species of international concern through improved conservation efforts. FY 2003 table details can be found in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund budget justification section.

### Justification of 2005 Program Changes

| Subactivity                |                | 2005 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| International Conservation | \$(000)<br>FTE | 3,559<br>16         | -395<br>0             |

The FY 2005 budget request for International Conservation is \$3,559,000, a net program decrease of \$395,000 and 0 FTE from the 2004 enacted level.

### Caddo Lake RAMSAR Center (-\$395,000)

The Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetlands Science Center facility and program operates as a public/private partnership between Caddo Lake Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service International Affairs Program. The Institute implements a 1996 joint U.S. Government and Caddo Lake Institute Ramsar Convention pledge to establish a regional Ramsar Center and academy for wetland education in the United States. The Institute provides the physical venue to support local efforts, and develops projects that demonstrate the ecological values, and opportunities for compatible economic development of wetlands. The 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill report included \$200,000 for the Caddo Lake Institution's initial planning, facility renovation, and program activities and the 2004 DOI Appropriations Bill report included an additional \$200,000 for the projects now underway. In FY 2005 the Service does not anticipate funding any further pass-through dollars for these projects.

A program reduction to the Caddo Lake RAMSAR Center is not directly related to the International Conservation subactivity's performance goals under the DOI Strategic Plan. This decrease will not affect the International Conservation subactivity's ability to meet the program's overall strategic goals, outcome measures and outputs.